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Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development
Fourth session
Geneva, 16-17 March 2016
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Investment, innovation and entrepreneurship for productive capacity-building and sustainable development
4. Report of the meeting

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Please recycle

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1
Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the expert meeting elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/10 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3
Investment, innovation and entrepreneurship and productive capacity-building for sustainable development

3. The topic for the fourth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development was decided at the fifty-sixth executive session of the Trade and Development Board, in 2012, as follows:* "The fourth session of the expert meeting will bring together the findings of the three preceding meetings, with a view towards refining UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Framework."

4. This last session is thus intended to summarize the work of the multi-year expert meeting from the policy perspective, bringing to a close the cycle of work undertaken on the subject matter. The timing of the fourth session suggests that it will also serve as a preparatory step towards the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV), in particular the deliberations under sub-theme 2 of promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth through trade, investment, finance and technology to achieve prosperity for all.

5. Investment is essential to build productive capacities and ensure sustainable development. New generations of investment policies have emerged that place inclusive growth and sustainable development at the heart of efforts to attract and benefit from investment. This prompted UNCTAD to update its Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development. Following guidance from member States, specific attention is being given to how to address investment policy challenges at the regional and international levels. In particular, and in light of the pressing need for systematic reform of the global regime of international investment agreements, it is necessary to take stock of efforts and bring that reform in line with today's sustainable development imperative.

* See document TD/B/EX(56)/2/Add.1, p. 5.

6. Science, technology and innovation (STI) are central to the process of building productive capacity, increasing productivity, promoting competitive firms and industries, and drawing level economically. The links between STI policy and sustainable development are thus myriad. This is recognized in the mainstreaming of STI into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focused on the Sustainable Development Goals. The inputs from member States experts emphasized the need for policy-focused technical cooperation on STI. In particular, consideration of the conceptual framework underlying the UNCTAD STI policy review programme provided a number of elements that should enable improved relevance of such policy frameworks for future activities in support of STI policy in developing countries, particularly with regard to their response to challenges posed by fast technological change.

7. Entrepreneurship is likewise key for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. However, to achieve impact on building productive capacities, strengthening microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, addressing challenges of sustainable and inclusive growth, improving life conditions particularly of vulnerable groups of the population, such as youth and women, concerted efforts are needed to ensure a comprehensive and holistic approach to entrepreneurship promotion. That approach should be based on long-term strategies and policies, adequate resource allocation, capacity-building programmes, efficient assessment and monitoring mechanisms, coordination and cooperation at all levels, and sharing of good practices and lessons learned. In response to that challenge, UNCTAD developed the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, which advocates a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated approach to assist policymakers in identifying, formulating and implementing policy measures on entrepreneurship and the promotion of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises.

8. Experts will be requested to elaborate on, and add to, these key issue areas identified by the secretariat. Experts are asked to share experiences with regard to the implementation of the three policy frameworks, as well as to shed light on other areas of concern and future consideration in this regard.

9. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background document entitled "Investment, innovation and entrepreneurship for productive capacity-building and sustainable development". In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/11	Investment, innovation and entrepreneurship for productive capacity-building and sustainable development

Item 4
Report of the meeting

10. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission at its next session.